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Date: 8 December 2003

To: All Narcotic Treatment Services

From: Deborah J. Powers
State Methadone Authority
Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

RE: Clarification of HFS 75.15 (9) Medical Services – **Amendment**
Clarification of HFS 75.15 (13) Testing and Analysis for Drugs - **Update**

The Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), Division of Disability and Elder Services promulgated administrative rule HFS 75 in 2000. Within those rules, HFS 75.15 established standards for narcotic treatment services for opiate addiction. On 24 July 2003, your agency received a memo providing clarification of HFS 75.15 (9) Medical Services. This memo will serve as an amendment and update to that clarification.

These standards are the basis for the Department to establish clear guidelines for allowable services covered by Medicaid. Under HFS 75.15 (9) Medical Services establishes/d under “(a) narcotic treatment service for opiate addiction may not provide any medical services not directly related to narcotic treatment. If a patient has medical service needs that are not directly related to narcotic treatment, the service shall refer the patient for appropriate health care.” For purposes of clarification, services directly related to narcotic treatment are defined as:

- ◆ Assessment of the client including current physiological or psychological dependence, length of history of addiction, a medical history, and a physical examination prior to administration of the first dose of methadone. Exceptions to criteria for admission must be granted by the state methadone authority and recorded as such.
- ◆ Urine drug screens as defined in HFS 75.15 (13). ~~Any-dDrug~~ screens in excess of those described in HFS 75.15 (13) ~~will be~~ **are** allowed ~~only~~ if deemed medically necessary for narcotic treatment **and must be identified in the patient’s individualized treatment plan. In addition to methadone and opiates, drugs of abuse to be tested should include cocaine, benzodiazepines, and marijuana. Testing for other drugs of abuse are to be based on the client’s history and should be identified in the treatment plan.**
- ◆ Screening for tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted diseases (**syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia**) upon admission and annually thereafter, and assuring appropriate follow-up treatment is provided as needed.
- ◆ Prescribing [and administering] narcotic medication with dosage and frequency of take-home medications and ensuring that justification for reducing the frequency of service visits for observed drug ingesting is met.

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- ◆ **Pregnancy testing for female patients unless they have undergone a procedure that yields them sterile or are post menopausal.**
- ◆ **Breathalyzer tests {for those individuals with alcohol identified as a concurrent problem and indicated in the treatment plan}.**
- ◆ Substance abuse counseling services.

Services not directly related to narcotic treatment include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Case management services.
- ◆ Chiropractic services.
- ◆ Crisis intervention services
- ◆ Dental services.
- ◆ Family planning services and supplies.
- ◆ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) services.
- ◆ Home health services or nursing services if a home health agency is unavailable.
- ◆ Hospice care.
- ◆ Inpatient hospital services other than services in an institution for mental disease.
- ◆ Inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, and intermediate care facility services for patients in institutions for mental disease.
- ◆ Intermediate care facility services, other than services at an institution for mental disease.
- ◆ Laboratory **{other than urine drug screens}** and X-ray services.
- ◆ Legend drugs and over-the-counter drugs listed in Wisconsin's Medicaid's drug index.
- ◆ Medical supplies and equipment.
- ◆ Mental health day treatment.
- ◆ Mental health and psychosocial rehabilitative services. This includes outpatient, in-home and community, and community support program services.
- ◆ Nurse midwife services.
- ◆ Nursing services other than those listed as narcotic treatment services above. This includes including services performed by a nurse practitioner.
- ◆ Optometric or optical services, including eyeglasses.
- ◆ Outpatient hospital services.
- ◆ Personal care services.
- ◆ Physical and occupational therapy.
- ◆ All other physician services (including spirometry, EKG, quantitative blood sugar levels). Only those listed as narcotic treatment are allowable.
- ◆ Podiatry services.
- ◆ Prenatal care coordination for women with high-risk pregnancies.
- ◆ Respiratory care services for ventilator-dependent individuals.
- ◆ Rural health clinic services.
- ◆ Skilled nursing home services other than in an institution for mental disease.
- ◆ Speech, hearing, and language disorder services.

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Services not directly related to narcotic treatment include, but are not limited to (continued):

- ◆ Substance abuse day treatment.
- ◆ Transportation to obtain medical care.
- ◆ Specialized Medical Vehicle transportation.
- ◆ Tuberculosis services.

As narcotic treatment programs are certified only as such, services provided are, by definition, limited to narcotic treatment services. Programs must adhere to all elements of HFS 75.03, 75.13, as well as those outlined in HFS 75.15 in order to obtain or retain program certification.

cc: Elaine Gundlach, Division of Health Care Financing
Vince Ritacca, Division of Disability and Elder Services, Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Christine Wolf, Division of Health Care Financing